

General Looks Back, Ahead at 1st Cav Mission

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad -- First comes Father Christmas, and then comes Father Time. As 2004 winds down and the holiday season brings on thoughts of home and hearth, the 1st Cavalry Division's commanding general said it's easy for Soldiers to lose focus on the mission at hand. But he warns against it... strongly.

"We're in an unforgiving environment," said Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division and Task Force Baghdad. "The only opportunity for you to let your guard down is after you've crossed the berm into Kuwait ... and even then you've got to stay focused to stay safe."

Combat operations aside, Chiarelli said the division has lost 12 Soldiers to non-combat related incidents and accidents this year.

"That's 12 too many," he said, shaking his head. "It's the job of leaders at all levels to not only maintain their focus, but to ensure their Soldiers do the same."

That focus, the general said, has served the First Team well this year.

"The division has performed absolutely magnificently," Chiarelli said. "I don't think any of us thought that we would enter into the situation we did on the fourth of April ... and it changed the way we had to look at the fight for the first couple of months. But we've maintained our focus with an understanding that our responsibility isn't to try to convince the people who already support us or the people who will never support us. We're looking after the people who are sitting on the fence, because they hold the balance of power over who's going to win this thing between the insurgents, former regime elements ... the terrorists and a free and democratic Iraqi government."

Visible Progress

Chiarelli said he's pleased with the success that Task Force Baghdad has had in rebuilding the infrastructure of the Iraqi capital, even in the wake of combat operations.

"After fighting two major fights in two periods of time in Sadr City, we now have \$161 million in projects going and 16,000 people currently employed there," he said. "Down in Al Rashid, we've spent well over



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An Abrams tank stands watch Nov. 18 in front of the command post of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, which was attached to Task Force 2-7 Cavalry during the battle for Fallujah. The 1st Cavalry Division provided armor and mechanized infantry assets to the U.S. Marines effort to rid the city of insurgents.

\$70 million in the four big areas - sewer, water, electricity and solid waste disposal. We've put a lot of people to work and improved the lives of the people down there."

And the projects aren't limited to any single section of Baghdad.

"You name it, we've got projects going on throughout the city," Chiarelli noted. "[We'll have] ... well over \$1 billion [committed to projects] by the end of the year."

The general also noted the importance of helping local businesses sprout up in Baghdad, providing immediate employment for thousands while setting the stage for future economic growth.

Even as the division remains committed to rebuilding Baghdad in support of the interim Iraqi government, the general said that First Team troopers have stood firm against terrorists and insurgents throughout this deployment.

Combat Warriors

Besides Sadr City, elements of the 1st Cav. Div. have been called upon to assist in combat operations in Najaf and Fallujah. They have been very successful.

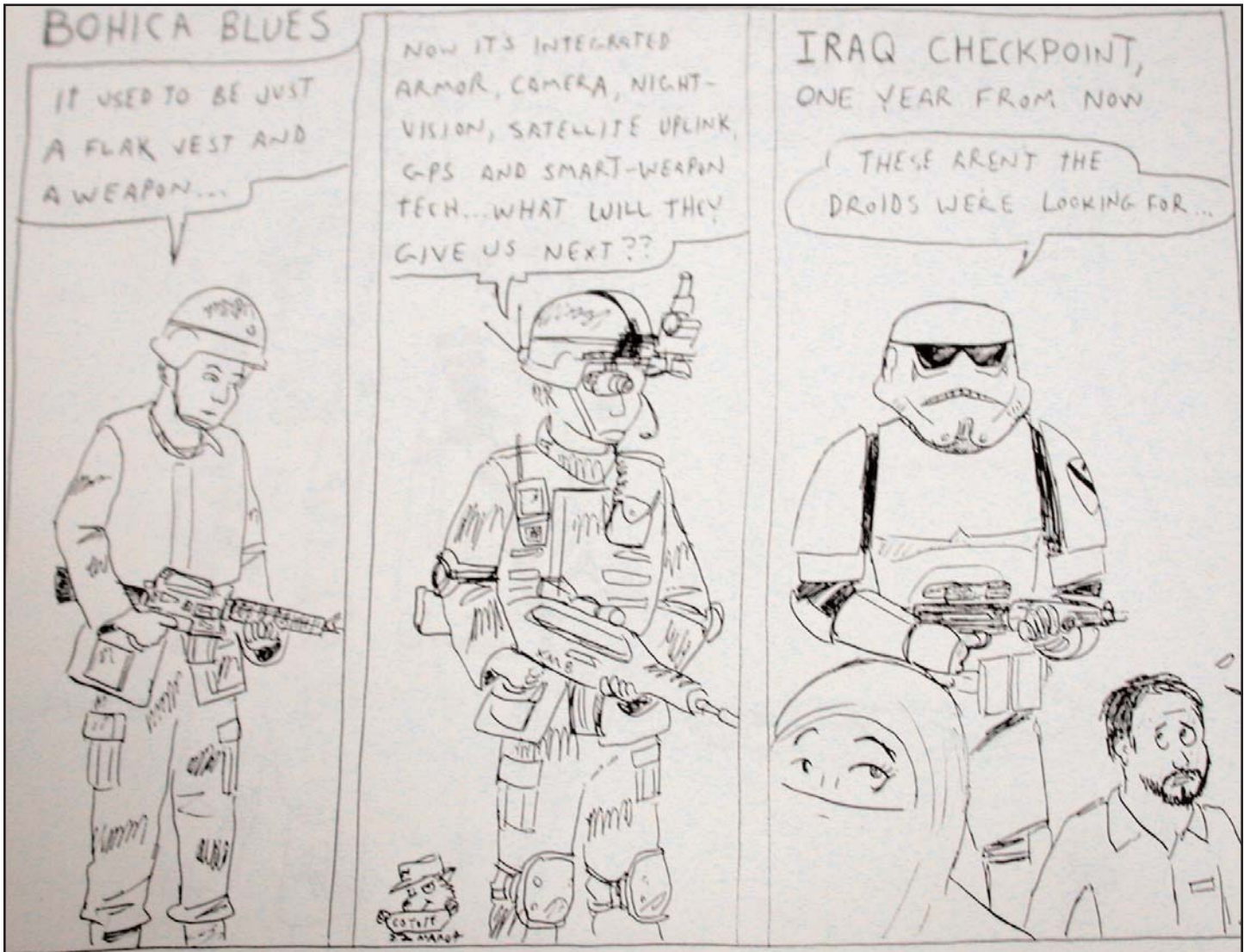
"The same two battalions went both times ... 1-5 and 2-7 Cavalry," Chiarelli said. "We did that, initially for Najaf, because they were the ones that we could thin out the line, so to speak, with because they'd done such a good job in their sectors in Baghdad."

"They went down and made such a name for themselves in Najaf with the Marines that the Marines asked for them again ... by name [for Fallujah]," he said.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team also went to deal with insurgents in Fallujah, where First Team units worked in and around the city to rid it of insurgents.

"2-7 [Cavalry] went to work directly

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By Staff Sgt. Christopher Grant, 411th Engineer Battalion

Bohica Blues cartoons are drawn by Staff Sgt. Christopher Grant, of the 411th Engineer Battalion from Boise, Idaho. His battalion is attached to the 1st Cavalry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Grant says he draws cartoons as a way to present his and his Soldiers' opinions to the world. His work is also displayed at the the Antelope (Engineer) dining facility on Camp Al-Tahreer.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Where are you going?

ilaa ayn tazhab[ee]?

Saturday

High: 61
Low: 36



Sunday

High: 59
Low: 37



Monday

High: 61
Low: 39



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

It Won't Hurt You, Just Your Wallet

SEATTLE (*Seattle Times*) -- Police and health authorities are investigating claims that a woman posing as a nurse set up flu clinics in three grocery stores in Whatcom County and injected dozens of shoppers with an unknown substance. In all, she injected about 130 shoppers, charging \$30 - cash only - a shot. The woman contacted individual store managers claiming she was from either Pacific Health Consultants or Visiting Nurse services and had just received a batch of flu vaccine, Cole said. She hung up on some managers who pressed for information. Suspicions arose when one shopper complained of pain in his arm after getting a shot.

Woman "Wouldn't Harm a Soul..."

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) -- A 79-year-old woman was arrested at Fort Lauderdale International Airport when security screeners found an unloaded gun in her carry-on bag. Deputies found a single-shot Colt Derringer in a gun case built to resemble a hardcover book, with seven .22-caliber bullets in the case next to the weapon, the sheriff's office said. The woman told deputies she knew the gun case contained a pistol, but had forgotten it was in the tote bag. If convicted, she faces up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. "I'm awful sorry. I wouldn't harm a soul," Anderson said after her release.

Chinese Seniors Delight in Eastside Programs

SEATTLE (*Seattle Times*) -- Every Tuesday, a parquet floor with shuffleboard markings in the Kirkland Senior Center moonlights as a stage for some of the Eastside's best-dressed Chinese seniors.

Wearing a strand of pearls, diamond earrings and a rhinestone brooch, an older Chinese woman shuffled in to join the weekly tai chi practice.

Watching from the wings, Catherine Wong, 27, who has been conducting programs for Chinese seniors on the Eastside for four years, smiled. "It's the only day of the week she gets out of the house."

After tai chi practice, the seniors gather in a classroom to sing Chinese songs, gossip about their families, play bingo in Mandarin and take English classes.

Yang Feng Jun is one of the most popular seniors in



Seattle Times

After their weekly gathering for tai chi, Kirkland Senior Center clients listen and sing along with Cheng Kun Huang on the erhu in Seattle.

his group. At the Kirkland Senior Center, he is known for spontaneous trips to the front of the room. He offers advice on family issues to other Chinese seniors.

On this recent Tuesday, someone brought in an erhu, a traditional Chinese instru-

ment that sounds like a violin. The seniors decided to forgo their weekly Mandarin bingo to sing traditional Chinese songs.

"Every week, I wait for Tuesday to come," said Dering Yang Lin, 78, a widow who lives alone in Kirkland.

Army Science Conference Attracts Professionals

ORLANDO, Fla. (*Army News Service*) -- Since 1957, the science that makes warfighting possible has brought together top minds in the field for a biennial collective look at new developments and unfolding technologies.

About 1,500 government, academic and industry leaders are gathered this week for the 24th Army Science Conference, which for the first time includes participation from allies and coalition partners. Industry and academic partners joined at the last conference, two years ago.

Fifty-four technologies - from liquid body armor and a nasal-spray painkiller to an artificial exomuscle that may someday be capable of binding wounds or giving cardio-pulmonary resuscitation - are also highlighted in the conference exhibit hall.

The focus this year is on the needs of the current force, as well as speeding up future force technologies, according to conference officials. Technologies like miniaturization and virtual reality will become common in the near future, said Ray Kurzweil, founder and chief executive officer of Kurzweil Technologies, Inc.

Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth Preston thanked the scientists, engineers and others whose work has led to technologies currently being used in conflict areas like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Remote-controlled robots, for example, are aiding in investigating suspicious items that may contain improvised explosive devices. Soldiers



Army News Service

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston tours the exhibit area of the 24th Army Science Conference with a group of Soldiers Nov. 29. The conference, held every two years, brings together government, industry and educational professionals who work to advance Army science and technology.

can check the items from a safe distance, greatly reducing the threat of death or injury, Preston said.

"I've seen first hand the technology that many of you helped design that's keeping our Soldiers alive," Preston said. "Their success is, in many ways, your success."

Mavs Win Texas Shoot Out in OT

DALLAS (AP) -- Tracy McGrady stood at midcourt, exhausted from an overtime shootout that seemed more like him against Dirk Nowitzki than the Houston Rockets vs. the Dallas Mavericks.

Nowitzki walked to him and they slapped hands and hugged. McGrady said something and Nowitzki cracked a sly smile.

The winner always gets the last laugh, right?

The Mavericks won the duel 113-106 Thursday night behind the best game of Nowitzki's career. His 53 points were the most ever by a Dallas player and tops in the NBA this season, which McGrady also surpassed with 48 points.

"It was a great show-down," Nowitzki said. "We winked at each other a couple of times."

While McGrady also had nine rebounds and nine assists, Nowitzki was more impressive because he dominated all over the floor. He had season highs in rebounds (16) and blocks (four), and had three steals, plus seemed to always get them



Dallas Mavericks Erick Dampier, center, goes up for a shot attempt against Houston Rocket defenders Maurice Taylor, left and Yao Ming during the second half of the Mavs' 113-106 overtime win, Thursday.

at key moments.

The best display came at the start of overtime, after McGrady missed a free throw with 27.1 seconds left in regulation, Nowitzki passed to Jerry Stackhouse for an ill-advised shot in the closing seconds and Houston's Bob Sura missed a 3-

pointer at the buzzer.

"That was exciting, it was fun," said McGrady, who was 19-of-36, including 6-of-13 on 3-pointers. "I think that was good basketball right there, two guys going at it at a high level. I hope the fans enjoyed it."

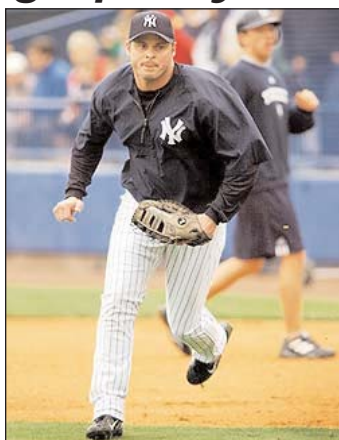
Giambi's Beefing Up May Get Him Put Down

NEW YORK (AP) -- Jason Giambi's reported testimony that he used steroids might jeopardize his \$120 million contract with the New York Yankees and allow baseball commissioner Bud Selig to discipline him.

Giambi said he injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and used steroids for at least three seasons, according to a grand jury transcript reviewed by the San Francisco Chronicle.

His testimony last December, before a federal grand jury investigating illegal steroid distribution, contradicts his public proclamations that he never used performance-enhancing drugs.

Penalties for steroid use in baseball began in 2003, but testing that identified players didn't start until the



Jason Giambi has had to field more questions about steroids than ground balls this spring. next season. Human growth hormone, or hGH, is not specifically banned by the major leagues.

While discipline is spelled out for positive tests and criminal convictions, admission of steroid use is not addressed, possibly giving Selig an opening to punish Giambi. Even so, baseball can't test him more than other players because it's been over a year since the steroid use.

Selig repeatedly has called for year-round random testing and harsher penalties, but management and the players' association have failed to reach an agreement. The contract runs through the 2006 season.

Giambi, the 2000 American League MVP with Oakland, signed a seven-year contract with the Yankees before the 2002 season, the sixth-highest deal in baseball history.

In Brief

New Nightly News Host Has Hopes

NEW YORK (AP) -- Tom Brokaw's successor is a NASCAR dad who considers pizza night with the kids sacred and listened to hundreds of hours of White House tapes from the Johnson administration for fun. Brian Williams, whose



tenure began Thursday, is no stranger to regular viewers of NBC's "Nightly News," but

his success depends on whether viewers grow to know and like him as much as his predecessor. Brokaw anchored his last "Nightly News" Wednesday, leaving on a ratings high with 15.4 million viewers.

Homeless Gibson Fan to Go on Trial

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) -- A drifter who repeatedly demanded to pray with "Passion of Christ" movie director Mel Gibson was ordered to stand trial on Thursday on charges of stalking. Zack Sinclair was arrested in October after arriving unannounced at Gibson's home saying he wanted to pray with him, and turning up at a chapel where Gibson attends mass on Sundays. In court papers, Gibson said the man had also sent him numerous letters insisting they should pray together. Gibson said he found the letters "alarming, harassing and annoying." Sinclair, a homeless man who is now in jail, was ordered to stand trial by a Los Angeles area judge.

CG Charges Leaders, Soldiers to Maintain Focus

Continued from Page 1

for the Marines," Chiarelli said. "It's just proof of the quality of Soldiers that we have. I don't think we should forget the great contributions made by the pilots of our 4th Brigade. 4th Brigade went and supported both operations and I know the guys on the ground would be the first to tell you that if it wasn't for the 4th Brigade

and the bravery of their pilots, our losses would have been much higher than they were in both of those fights."

Looking Ahead

Chiarelli said the Iraqi national election, still set for Jan. 30, is the next major hurdle for the First Team.

"I think it's going to be a monumental task to run elections in a country of 25 million people where you expect voter turn

out to be in the vicinity of 85 to 90 percent," the general said. - "Right now, we're in a support role, but I tend to believe as we get closer and closer to the elections we're going to be asked to do more and more. Such as provide additional security ... logistical support ... always in support of the Iraqis."

Putting the upcoming elections in perspective, Chiarelli pointed to the images of Americans standing in line to vote in November. He expects the Iraqi elections to be just as busy, if not more so.

"We all saw the election back home," Chiarelli said. "We had one of the biggest turn outs of all time. We saw the lines, and we had electronic voting machines and state-of-the-art stuff. Here, they have far less, but they're not going to have 60 percent turn out to vote. They're going to have 85 to 90 percent turn out, and we're going to do it all in a 10-hour period on the 30th of January."

Hope for 2005

Not wanting to look too far ahead, the First Team's commanding general said his greatest hope for the coming year is that his troopers maintain their focus ... their edge.

"Good things will flow from that," Chiarelli said. "I want a smooth redeployment; I want safety for all of my Soldiers; I want to turn over our sector to the 3rd Infantry Division in the proper way. I want all those things, and the way that we do that is to maintain our focus. We maintain our focus by doing what we've been doing the whole time we've been here -- doing what's right -- right for our Soldiers, right for the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, right for the Iraqi people and right for the Iraqi government."



By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Jeff Young, a sniper with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, scans a northwestern Fallujah neighborhood for insurgent snipers Nov. 16. Young and his spotter, Staff Sgt. Paul Buki added extra protection for Soldiers of Company A, 2-7 Cavalry from their rooftop position on the company's temporary command post in the battle-torn city.

Ambassador Surveys Reconstruction Projects

Capt. Dan Ramos, the civil-military operations chief for 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, talks to Ambassador William Taylor and Maj. Gen. Robert Williamson, the director and deputy director of the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office, at the Al Rashid garbage dump Nov. 23, the first such dump in Baghdad. Taylor and Williamson were down in Baghdad's Al Rashid District to see how several reconstruction projects sponsored by the 5th Brigade Combat Team were proceeding. The dump, Ramos said, would open for business by March 2005.



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD